

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IO-13 USIA-06 SIL-01 LAB-04 /034 W

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R 261503Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1323

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: FY-1977 COUNTRY PLAN PROPOSALS FOR BARBADOS

REF: STATE 175725

1. WE ARE ONLY NOW SUBMITTING CU PROPOSALS BECAUSE WE HAD UNDERSTOOD EMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN WOULD INCORPORATE OUR PROPOSALS IN ITS OWN AND HAVE RECENTLY LEARNED THAT, IN FACT, IT DID NOT. (WE CARRY ON ONLY A LIMITED RANGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS FUNCTIONS, HAVE NO AMERICAN AND ONLY ONE LOCAL USIS EMPLOYEE, AND DO NOT SUBMIT A SEPARATE COUNTRY PLAN. THE USIS OFFICE IN PORT OF SPAIN EXERCISES GENERAL SUPERVISION OVER AND BUDGETS FOR OUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES.)

2. OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE FOR THE CU-FUNDED IV PROGRAM REMAINS THAT OF INCREASING UNDERSTANDING OF US SOCIETY AND INSTITUTIONS ON THE PART OF LOCAL LEADERS AND OPINION-MAKERS. INDEED, SINCE THIS OBJECTIVE WAS SET FORTH IN BRIDGETOWN'S 1026 LAST YEAR, IT HAS ACQUIRED EVEN GREATER IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY. NOT ONLY ARE THE FIVE ASSOCIATED STATES (WHICH CONSTITUTE HALF OF THE TERRITORIES UNDER THIS EMBASSY'S JURISDICTION) THAT MUCH CLOSER TO INDEPENDENCE, BUT THERE IS A STEADY DRIFT LEAFTWARD IN THE AREA AS A WHOLE OPEN IN BARBADOS, WHOSE PEOPLE ARE GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE CONSERVATIVELY ORIENTED AND PRO-AMERICAN, THE PRIME MINISTER HAS RECENTLY SEEN FIT TO

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ACCUSE THE US OF "DESTABILIZATION." WE CONSIDER THIS

ARCUSATIONS TO BE AN ELECTION GIMMICK AND DOUBT THAT MANY BARBADIANS ACCEPT THEM AT FACE VALUE, BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT THE LEADER OF THE MOST POPULOUS AND ECONOMICALLY MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRY IN OUR AREA EITHER MISUNDERSTANDS USG POLICY OR, MORE LIKELY, BELIEVES THERE IS SUFFICIENT DOUBT ABOUT SUCH POLICY AMONG THE VOTERS TO MAKE HIS ACCUSATIONS POLITICALLY PROFITABLE.

3. AS IN FY-76 AND THE TRANSITIONAL QUARTER, WE PROPOSE TO FOCUS OUR EFFORTS ON GOVERNMENT LEADERS AT THE CABINET LEVEL, LEADERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES, AND HIGH-RANKING CIVIL SERVANTS. ONE OF OUR GRANTS, HOWEVER, WOULD GO TO A TRADE UNION LEADER; SINCE ALL THE GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA ARE LABOR-BASED, LABOR LEADERS ARE OF GREAT POLITICAL IMPORTANCE. AS IN THE RECENT PAST, TOO, WE WOULD SPREAD OUR GRANTS AMONG THE SEVERAL TERRITORIES, CONCENTRATING ON THOSE THAT HAVE NOT RECENTLY HAD ANY.

4. THOUGH, GIVEN THE PACE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA, FY-78 SEEMS TO US TO BE TOO FAR AWAY FOR ANY CONCRETE PLANNING, WE ANTICIPATE THAT OUR PROPOSALS FOR THAT YEAR WOULD BE GENERALLY SIMILAR TO THOSE FOR FY-77.
BRITTON

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